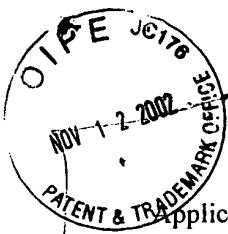


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant(s): Paula M. Vertino
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Examiner: Jeanine A. Enewold Goldberg
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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 8, 2002.

Maria A. Trevisan, Reg. No. 48,207

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed from the Patent Office on May 8, 2002 (Paper No. 21). A three month extension of time is respectfully requested and the appropriate small entity fee is submitted concurrently herewith. Applicant is a small entity and is entitled to small entity status.

In the Specification

Please re-write the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 3, as indicated below. A marked-up version of the specification is appended herewith as Appendix A. For clarity, and in view of the underlined text pre-existing in this paragraph, the amended region is highlighted both below and in Appendix A.

G1

Homologs and alleles of the TMS1 nucleic acids of the invention can be identified by conventional techniques. Thus, an aspect of the invention is those nucleic acid sequences which code for TMS1 polypeptides and which hybridize to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the coding region of preferably SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:24, or in other embodiments SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, or in still other embodiments SEQ ID NO:26, and in yet other embodiments SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9, under stringent conditions. The term "stringent conditions" as used herein refers to parameters with which the art is familiar. Nucleic acid hybridization parameters may be found in references which compile such methods, e.g. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, J. Sambrook, et al., eds., Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New